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ACT: PI: COPIES: S6S G1 G2 G3 G4 G5 A6 CA CE CH CP

DC GL DOIM DS EH EN FSE GC IG JA MD PA PAC PM RC RM SLC

UNITS: APT ASOTBD CID COSCOM DRMO HCDBG HQCMDT INSCOM ISC JFK LAO

MEDCAC RG ROTC SAO SFOD SOCLANT SOCON SSD SMS 16MP 17MI 18AVN 18CA

18FG 18ORD 19REP 20ENG 35SIG 82ABN 513MI 525MI 902MI

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DE RUSBXB #1527/01 2431200

ZNY CCCCC 22H

O 310625Z AUG 87

FM AMEMBASSY KABUL

TO RUEHIL/AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD IMMEDIATE 3926

RUEHNE/AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI IMMEDIATE 5638

RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6989

INFO RUEHUU/AFGHAN WAR COLLECTIVE

RUEHIA/USIA WASHDC 1837

RUFHCH/AMEMBASSY COLOMBO 1919

RUFHKT/AMEMBASSY KATHMANJU 1378

RUSNMOA/USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GE

RUCAKA/FT BRAGG NC AFVS//POE//SB

RUHGHQA/CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

RUFCAAA/CINCUSAREUR HEIDELBERG GE

RHFQAAA/HQ USAFE RAMSTEIN AB GE

RHFCAAA/HQ USAFE RAMSTEIN AB GE//INCO

RUDORRA/USNMR SHAPE BE//INTAFF//

RUCJACC/USCENTCOM MACDILL AFB FL//CCJ2-ION//

RUEOLEA/DEFENSE COMMUNICATION SUPPORT GROUP

RUCLFNA/347 TFW MOODY AFB GA//IN//

RUFNSMH/USDOCOSOUTH NAPLES IT

RUEOAYB/FSTC INTEL OPS CHARLOTTESVILLE VA//AIAST-IO/CHI//

BT

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 07 KABUL 1527

MILITARY ADDRESSEES ALSO FOR POLADS; PARIS ALSO FOR USDAO;

DEPARTMENT ALSO FOR NEA/PAB, MR. BRUNO; THE HAGUE FOR

A-DAM AND R-DAM

E.O. 12356: DECL: 31 AUG 93

TAGS: PREL, MORS, MCAP, PHUM, PINR, PINS, PROP, SREF, ASEC, UR, AF

SUBJECT: AFGHANISTAN SITUATION REPORT AUG 24-30, 1987

REF: KABUL 1466

1. (C - ENTIRE TEXT.)

2. THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION MAY BE BRIEFED TO JOURNALISTS
EXCEPT WHERE OTHERWISE NOTED. (NOTE TO BRIEFERS IN ISLAMABAD,
PESHAWAR AND NEW DELHI: YOU MAY WISH TO CONSIDER CONCENTRATING
ON SUMMARIES AND SELECTED EXCERPTS FROM PARAS 4 AND 5.)

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR

REVIEWED BY John K. Keller

DATE 4/28/89

() RELEASE

() DECLASSIFY

() EXCISE

() DECLASSIFY in PART

() DENY

() Non-responsive info.

FOR 18 of PA exemptions B1 B3

CLASSIFY as CONFIDENTIAL authority to:

() CLASSIFY as CONFIDENTIAL OADR

() DOWNGRADE IS to () B1 () B3 () C, OADR

COSCOM-319464/44 12.08

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A. TO BE BRIEFED TO PRESS: KABUL WAS QUIETER THAN IN PREVIOUS WEEKS AS FIGHTING, HEARD LAST WEEK ON ALL SIDES OF KABUL, NOW APPEARS FOCUSED FARTHER NORTH. THE REPORTING WEEK CONCLUDED WITH MACHINE GUN FIRE AT THE AIRPORT AND WHAT APPEARED TO BE EXPLOSIONS FROM INCOMING ORDNANCE. REFUGEES FROM DEVASTATED AREAS NORTH AND WEST OF THE CITY CONTINUED TO STREAM INTO KABUL WHERE THEY LARGELY HAVE TO FEND FOR THEMSELVES. A BTR DRIVEN BY A DRUNKEN SOVIET SOLDIER CRASHED INTO TWO SMALL SHOPS, DEMOLISHING BOTH AND KILLING ONE MAN. MEANWHILE SOVIET DEFENSIVE MEASURES IN THE CITY APPEAR TO BE TIGHTENING. REPORTS OF CONFUSION AT BAGRAM AIRBASE INCLUDE FACTIONAL FIGHTING OVER SOVIET ATTEMPTS TO ABOUT LOCAL HOME. IN AN APPARENTLY UNRELATED DEVELOPMENT, DRA PILOTS AT THE BASE MUTINIED, DRAWING A SOVIET RETALIATION THAT INCLUDED BOMBING OF DRA CADRE QUARTERS. A LARGE SOVIET DEPLOYMENT NORTHWARD DURING THE WEEK SIGNALLED MAJOR NEW FIGHTING PROBABLY NORTH OF CHARIKAR. DURING THE PAST TEN DAYS, REPORTS OF FIGHTING IN THE CITIES OF KANDAHAR, HERAT AND GHAZNI HAVE REACHED KABUL. REPORTS ALSO INDICATE SIGNIFICANT SOVIET CASUALTIES IN LOGAR AND ELSEWHERE. IN THE SHOMALI, MUCH OF THE RICH LOCAL GRAPE PRODUCTION NOT RUINED BY RECENT FIGHTING, IS BEING LEFT TO ROT ON THE VINE AS SOVIET TROOPS PREVENT VILLAGERS FROM RETURNING TO THEIR CROPS FOR THE HARVEST, NOW REACHING ITS PEAK. BOTH PRIME MINISTER KESHMAND AND INTERIOR MINISTER GULABZOI ARE RUMORED TO BE IN MOSCOW.

8. NOT TO BE BRIEFED TO PRESS: THE MFA HAS CLAIMED THAT THE GENEVA TALKS WILL RESUME SEPTEMBER 7. NASOOD HAS RETURNED TO THE PANJSHIR IN RESPONSE TO CRITICISM FROM SOME OF HIS COMMANDERS THAT HE HAD IGNORED THE PANJSHIR, CONCENTRATING INSTEAD ON HIS POLITICAL STRATEGY OF UNITING THE NORTH. THE ICRC CONTINUES TO EXPAND ITS PRESENCE AMIDST REPORTS THAT THE DRA HAS RESUMED A DIALOGUE WITH ICRC ABOUT ITS ACCESS TO PRISONERS. AN AFGHAN REPORTS THAT THE REGIME HAS SENT ASSISTANCE 'INCLUDING WEAPONS AND MONEY' TO REBELS IN THE KURRAM AGENCY. END SUMMARY

KABUL EXPERIENCED AN UNUSUALLY QUIET WEEK AS MUCH OF THE FIGHTING THAT HAD BEEN OBSERVED AROUND KABUL IN PREVIOUS WEEKS APPEARED TO SHIFT NORTH. FIGHTING WAS OBSERVED ON ONE NIGHT TO THE SOUTH AND TO THE WEST AND NEAR THE AIRPORT AS THE REPORTING WEEK CONCLUDED. SOVIET FORCES HARDENED THEIR DEFENSES IN THE CITY, WITH CONTINUED CONSTRUCTION OF A ROAD-SIDE BARRIER ADJACENT TO THE SOVIET EMBASSY, WHICH DRA SOLDIERS CLAIM IS TO STRENGTHEN THE EMBASSY'S DEFENSES AGAINST BOMBS. TWO GUARD TOWERS ON A SOVIET BASE ON PERIMETER ROAD HAVE ADDITIONAL ARMOR. ARMED SOVIET SQUADS HAVE INCREASED DAYTIME PATROLS IN THE CHICKEN STREET-FRUIT BAZAAR AREA SINCE A SOVIET

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SOLDIER STRANGLED A SHOPOWNER'S 13 YEAR OLD SON AND WOUNDED
ANOTHER BOY EARLIER IN THE MONTH. ARMED SOVIET TROOPS WHO GUARD
BUSES WHICH BRING SOVIET PERSONNEL TO THE AREA TO SHOP NOW
REGULARLY WEAR HELMETS AND

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ACT: PI: COPIES: SGS 61 62 63 64 65 AG CA CE CH CP

REC

JC CL DOIM DS EH EN FSE GC IG JA MD PA PAO PM RC RM SLC

RTE

UNITS: APT ASOTBD CID COSCOM DRMO HCOBG HQCMDT INSCOM ISC JFK LAO

REP

MEDDAC RG ROTC SAO SFOD SOCLANT SOCOM SSD 5WS 16MP 17MI 18AVN 18CA

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18FG 18ORD 19REP 20ENG 35SIG 82ABN 513MI ~~525MI~~ 902MI

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INFO RUEHUU/AFGHAN WAR COLLECTIVE

RUEHIA/USIA WASHDC 1838

RUFHCH/1-.3.2-6 :919.79 1920

RUFHKT/AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU 1379

RUSNNOA/USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GE

RUCLAKA/FT BRAGG NC AFVS//POE//SB

RUMCHQA/CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

RUFCAAA/CINCUSAREUR HEIDELBERG GE

RHFGAAA/HQ USAF RAMSTEIN AB GE

RHFGAAA/HQ USAF RAMSTEIN AB GE//INCO

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RUEOAYB/FSTC INTEL OPS CHARLOTTESVILLE VA//AIAST-IO/CHI//

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 07 KABUL 1527

FLAK JACKETS. DIPLOMATS HAVE NOTED A NEW TWO-STORY STRUCTURE UNDER CONSTRUCTION AT THE SOVIET MILITARY HOSPITAL. IN AN ACCIDENT ASSOCIATED WITH THE SOVIET MILITARY PRESENCE IN THE CITY, A BTR, REPORTEDLY DRIVEN BY A DRUNKEN SOVIET SOLDIER, CAREEMED INTO TWO SMALL SHOPS, DESTROYING BOTH AND KILLING ONE MAN (SEE HUMAN RIGHTS DEVELOPMENTS, PARA 15). DIPLOMATS REPORTED THE FOLLOWING:

--AUGUST 23: INTERMITTENT FIRING AND FLARES DURING THE EVENING NORTH OF THE AIRPORT.

--AUGUST 26: AT 0245 A SERIES OF SINGLE SMALL ARM ROUNDS IN WAZIR AKBAR KHAN NEAR THE U.S. EMBASSY. DURING THE MORNING, SOVIET TROOPS GUARDED THE DRA MINISTRY OF DEFENSE.

--AUGUST 28: ARTILERY MUZZLE FLASHES SOUTH OF KARGHA LAKE WITH SOME IMPACTS NOTED IN THE PAGHMAN MOUNTAIN

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SLOPES SOUTH OF PAGHMAN TOWN. BEGINNING AT 1940 AND CONTINUING MOST OF THE NIGHT, ARTILLERY FIRED FROM SOUTH OF THE CITY INTO HIGH GROUND IN SOUTHERN KABUL - NORTHERN LOGAR PROVINCE WAS OBSERVED WITH CONTINUOUS FLASHES OF IMPACTING ROUNDS. LARGE WHITE FLASHES WERE ALSO OBSERVED TO THE EAST AND SOUTHEAST. POSSIBLY NIGHTTIME BOMBING.

--AUGUST 30-31: BEGINNING AT APPROXIMATELY MIDNIGHT (AUGUST 30) AND CONTINUING INTO EARLY AUGUST 31, DIPLOMATS HEARD LIGHT AND HEAVY MACHINE GUN FIRE NEAR THE AIRPORT, ACCOMPANIED BY THE SOUND OF EXPLOSIONS, POSSIBLY FROM I COMING ORDNANCE. ARTILLERY FIRE COULD BE HEARD TO THE WEST, POSSIBLY CONFIRMING AFGHAN REPORTS OF OVERNIGHT ARTILLERY AND ROCKET ATTACKS INTO THE SHAKADARA AREA.

5. MILITARY MOVEMENT IN THE KABUL AREA:

A. AIR: AIR TRAFFIC WAS HEAVY DURING SEVERAL NIGHTS. HEAVY HELICOPTER TRAFFIC FROM KABUL TO THE WEST IN

THE EARLY MORNINGS HAS RESUMED, MOST OF THE FLIGHTS BEING SOVIET AIRCRAFT RATHER THAN DRA AS IN THE PAST TOTAL OF 38 IL-76'S ARRIVED THEN DEPARTED. UP SIGNIFICANTLY FROM THE PREVIOUS WEEK'S 22.

--AUGUST 25: AT 0130 TWO PAIRS OF JET FIGHTERS ARRIVED AT KABUL AIRPORT. ONE PAIR DEPARTED SOUTHEAST AT 0855. THE AIRCRAFT MAY HAVE BEEN ASSOCIATED WITH THE REGIME'S FIRST "AIR FORCE DAY" CELEBRATED ON THE 25TH AT KABUL AIRPORT.

--ALGUST 27: AT 0520 TWELVE SOVIET HELICOPTERS LEFT KABUL
HEADED WEST AT LOW ALTITUDE. BETWEEN 0830 AND 0900,
12-15 SOVIET HELICOPTERS DEPARTED KABUL TO THE SOUTH-
SOUTHWEST.

--AUGUST 28: TEN IL-76'S ARRIVED THEN DEPARTED.

--ALGUST WOC HEAVY AIR TRAFFIC, COMPRISING MOSTLY FIXED-WING AIRCRAFT, ARRIVED AND DEPARTED. NINE FIXED-WING AIRCRAFT DEPARTED BETWEEN 2000 AND 2100.

--AUGUST 30: BETWEEN MIDNIGHT AND 0330 THERE WAS HEAVY HELICOPTER MOVEMENT, PRIMARILY DEPARTURES TO THE SOUTH-SOUTHWEST.

8. VEHICULAR MOVEMENT: LARGE SOVIET ARMOR AND ARTILLERY CONVOYS MOVED NORTH DURING THE WEEK, SIGNALING A MAJOR NEW SOVIET CAMPAIGN TO THE NORTH OF KABUL. KABUL RESIDENTS ATTEMPTING TO TRAVEL NORTH ON AUGUST 27 WERE STOPPED AT CHARIKAR WHERE THEY WERE INFORMED THAT "FIGHTING TO THE NORTH" MADE FURTHER TRAVEL IMPOSSIBLE. SOME SOVIET CONVOY MOVEMENT NORTH WAS NOTED DURING THE WEEK. BUT INBOUND CONVOYS WERE OBSERVED ONLY EARLY IN THE WEEK. DIPLOMATS OBSERVED THE FOLLOWING MOVEMENTS:

--AUGUST 24: AT 0630 FIFTY SOVIET TRUCKS (CARRYING COAL OR ASPHALT) EASTBOUND ON PERIMETER ROAD.

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ACT: PI: COPIES: SGS G1 G2 G3 G4 G5 AG CA CB CH CP REC ---

DC DL DOIM DS EH EN FSE GC IG JA MD PA PAO PM RC RM SLC RTE ---

UNITS: APT ASOTBD CID COSCOM DRMO HCDBG HQCHDT INSCOM ISC JFK LAO REP ---

HEDCAC RG ROTC SAO SFOO SOCLANT SOCOM SSD SWS 16MP 17MI 18AVN 18CA FLE ---

18FG 18ORD 19REP 20ENG 35SIG 82ABN 513MI 525MI 902MI ---

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DE RUSBKB #1527/03 2431200

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FM AMEMBASSY KABUL

TO RUEHIL/AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD IMMEDIATE 3928

RUEHNE/AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI IMMEDIATE 5640

RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6991

INFO RUEHUU/AFGHAN WAR COLLECTIVE

RUEHIA/USIA WASHDC 1839

RUFHCH/AMEMBASSY COLOMBO 1921

RUFHKT/AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU 1380

RUSNNOA/USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GE

RUCLAKA/FT BRAGB NC AFVS//POE//SB

RUHQHQA/CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

RUFCAAA/CINCUSAREUR HEIDELBERG GE

RHFQAAA/HQ USAFE RAMSTEIN AB GE

RHFQAAA/HQ USAFE RAMSTEIN AB GE//INCO

RUDCRR/USNRR SHAPE BE//INTAFF//

RUCJACC/USCENTCOM MACDILL AFB FL//CCJ2-10M//

RUEOLEA/DEFENSE COMMUNICATION SUPPORT GROUP

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RUFNSHH/USDOCOSOUTH NAPLES IT

RUEOAYB/FSTC INTEL OPS CHARLOTTESVILLE VA//AIAST-10/CHI//

BT

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION XPE OF 07 KABUL 1527

--AUGUST 25: AT 0600 SOVIET TRACKED ARTILLERY ACCOMPANIED

BY AN MTLB ARMOR CONTROL VEHICLE WITH A MOUNTED MORTAR

AND FOUR T-62 ANKS HEADED THROUGH KARTE PARWAN IN THE

DIRECTION OF THE SALANG HIGHWAY. AT THE SAME TIME,

45 SOVIET FUEL TRUCKS MOVED EAST ON PERIMETER ROAD.

AT 1130 TWELVE SELF-PROPELLED GUNS, ACCOMPANIED BY ONE MTLB,

HEADED NORTH FROM PERIMETER ROAD ON A TRACK THAT LEADS

INTO THE SHOMALI. AT 1810 TEN TRACKED VEHICLES MOVED THROUGH

HAZIR AKBAR KHAN (USED TO PROVIDE SECURITY AT

KABUL AIRPORT DURING CEREMONIES LINKED TO AIR FORCE DAY.)

--AUGUST 26: AT 0445 THIRTY-FIVE COVERED TRUCKS MOVED NORTHWEST

THROUGH SHARE NAU. BETWEEN 0500 AND 0540 A CONVOY OF

OVER 100 DRA FUEL AND SUPPLY TRUCKS SNAKED THROUGH

THE NORTHERN PART OF THE CITY HEADED WEST. AN

AFGHAN SOURCE CLAIMED THE SUPPLY CONVOY WAS HEADED

FOR KANDAHAR. (MUJAHIDIN SOURCES IN PESHAWAR DAYS EARLIER HAD

CLAIMED DESTRUCTION OF MAJOR DRA AMMUNITION STOCKS

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IN AN ATTACK ON A LARGE DRA AMMO DUMP NEAR KANDAHAR.)
AT 0615 A MASSIVE SOVIET COLUMN, POSSIBLY LARGER THAN
THAT SEEN MOVING INTO THE SHOMALI AT THE BEGINNING
OF THE AUGUST 7-15 SOVIET CAMPAIGN IN THAT REGION,
MOVED NORTH OUT OF KABUL. IT INCLUDED BM-27 MULTIPLE ROCKET
LAUNCHERS, TANKS AND ASSORTED ARMORED PERSONNEL
CARRIERS. (COMMENT: SELF-PROPELLED GUNS OBSERVED HEADED NORTH
THE PREVIOUS DAY MAY HAVE BEEN PART OF THE SAME MOVEMENT.)
--AUGUST 27: AT 1115 A SOVIET FUEL CONVOY (UNIT ID 1032)
MOVED UP THE SALANG HIGHWAY. AT 1730 THREE SOVIET MILITARY
AMBULANCES MOVED VERY SLOWLY THROUGH SHAH NAU TO THE AIRPORT.
INJURED MALES INSIDE, SOME WEARING BRACES RESTRICTING MOVEMENT
SUCH AS USED FOR TRANSPORTING PATIENTS WITH SPINAL INJURIES,
COULD BE SEEN. AT 1800 SIX SOVIET ARMORED VEHICLES HEADED
EAST ON JALALABAD ROAD.
--AUGUST 28: A SOVIET/DRA CONVOY, REPORTEDLY
BOUND FOR SADAKHSHAN, LEFT KABUL.
--AUGUST 29: AT 0700 TWO SOVIET CONVOYS (UNIT ID'S 0011 AND
0012) OF OVER 100 VEHICLES MERGED INTO A SINGLE NORTH-BOUND
SALANG HIGHWAY CONVOY. AT 1500 A SOVIET FUEL CONVOY
HEADED WEST THROUGH THE CITY.
--COMBAT IN THE PROVINCES --

6. KABUL PROVINCE (CITY DEVELOPMENTS REPORTED PARA 4.5):

A. KABUL-NORTH: AFGHANS REPORT THAT FROM MIR BACHCHEH KUT
(34°45'N 69°08'E) TO QARABAGH (APPROXIMATELY 10 KMS)
SOVIET TANKS REMAIN POSITIONED ALONG THE ROAD AND ARE
PREVENTING LOCAL RESIDENTS FROM APPROACHING ROADSIDE VINEYARDS
NOT DAMAGED IN THE RECENT FIGHTING WHICH ARE NOW READY FOR
HARVEST. IN THE QARABAGH AREA SOVIET AND DRA TANKS HAVE DESTROYED
MANY VINEYARDS. OTHER AFGHANS REPORT THAT SOVIET FORCES
HAVE CLEARED THE ROADSIDES OF VEGETATION (VINEYARDS AND
ORCHARDS) AND BUILDINGS FROM THE SALANG HIGHWAY TO BAGRAM
(APPROXIMATELY 8 KMS). SOVIET AND DRA TROOPS ALSO HAD PLANTED
MANY MINES IN THE AREA. A REGIME SOURCE CLAIMS THAT IN THE EARLY-
MID AUGUST FIGHTING IN THE SHOMALI, SOVIET AND DRA FORCES
DESTROYED SHAKADANA BUT LOST SIX TO EIGHT HELICOPTERS IN THE
FIGHTING. AN AFGHAN SOURCE CLAIMS MORE RECENT FIGHTING IN THE
QARABAGH AREA WHERE ON AUGUST 27 HELICOPTERS WERE OBSERVED
REMOVING SOVIET DEAD AND WOUNDED. ARTILLERY AND ROCKET FIRE
BOMBARDED THE SHAKADANA AREA LATE ON AUGUST 30. DIPLOMATS ALSO
HEARD ARTILLERY FIRE TO THE NORTH WHILE IN THE KARGHA AREA
ON THE MORNING OF AUGUST 28. (SEE PARA 16, MILITARY DEVELOPMENTS
FOR REPORT ON FACTIONAL FIGHTING AND MUTINY AT BAGRAM AIRBASE.)

B. KABUL-WEST: ON OR ABOUT AUGUST 21 MUJAHIDIN CAPTURED
THREE SOVIET SOLDIERS IN THE CHANDAL BAI AREA, ACCORDING TO
A REGULAR AFGHAN SOURCE. ARTILLERY FIRED INTO THE HILLS SOUTH
OF PAGHMAN ON THE EVENING OF AUGUST 28.

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| ACT: | PI: | COPIES: | SGS | G1 | G2 | G3 | G4 | G5 | A6 | CA | CE | CH | CP | REC | ----- |
| DC | DL | DOIM | DS | EH | EN | FSE | GC | IG | JA | MO | PA | PAO | PM | RC | RN |
| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | SLC |
| UNITS: | APT | ASOTBD | CID | COSCOM | DRMO | HCDBG | HQCMT | INSCOM | ISC | JFK | LAO | | | REP | ----- |
| MEDEAC | R6 | ROTC | SAO | SFOO | SOCLANT | SOCOM | SSD | SWS | 16MP | 17MI | 18AVN | 18CA | | FLE | ----- |
| 18FG | 18ORD | 19REP | 20ENG | 35SIG | 82ABN | 513MI | 525MI | 902MI | | | | | | | ----- |

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7. KANDAHAR: WOUNDED DRA PERSONNEL ARRIVING AT THE KABUL SARANDOI HOSPITAL DESCRIBE SERIOUS FIGHTING AT THE HERAT BAZAAR IN KANDAHAR AUGUST 27-29. KANDAHARIS REPORT A MUJAHIDIN ATTACK ON A COMMAND POINT INSIDE THE CITY AUGUST 20 WHICH RESULTED IN 29 DRA CASUALTIES AND AN AUGUST 16 ATTACK ON THE SHAH BAZAAR (FOR REGIME CADRES) AND A SEPARATE ATTACK IN THE AREA OF THE "GREEN BAZAAR" IN THE SAME PERIOD. THE LATTER ATTACK REPORTEDLY IGNITED A FIRE THAT BURNED FOR TWO DAYS, ACCORDING TO A RECENT TRAVELER FROM KANDAHAR. THE TRAVELER SURTHEN REPORTED EXTENSIVE DESTRUCTION WITHIN THE CITY WITH SOME VISIBLE DAMAGE :~

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TO ALMOST ALL BUILDINGS. THE MAIN CIVILIAN HOSPITAL HAS NO WINDOWS INTACT, MAKING IT IMPOSSIBLE TO MAINTAIN A STERILE ENVIRONMENT IN THE FACILITY. THE TRAVELER ALSO REPORTS EXTENSIVE DAMAGE TO THE MAIN KANDAHAR HOTEL. MUJAHIDIN FROM OUTSIDE THE CITY REPORTEDLY SHELL THE CITY NIGHTLY. FIXED-WING AIRCRAFT ON SOME OCCASIONS APPROACH THE KANDAHAR AIRPORT IN A STEEP DIVE FROM 25-30,000 FEET RATHER THAN "CORKSCREW DOWN" AS IS DONE IN KABUL. A KANDAHAR RESIDENT REPORTS THAT NEARLY ALL RESIDENTS OF THE MALAJAT AREA HAVE FLED THE FIGHTING THERE IN JUNE AND JULY. A RELIABLE DIPLOMAT FOLLOWS THAT DURING THE NINE WEEKS OF INTENSE FIGHTING IN AND AROUND KANDAHAR MUJAHIDIN SUPPLIES RAN LOW. MUJAHIDIN IN THE AREA USED A BRIEF, UNOFFICIAL TRUCE OVER THE EID HOLIDAY IN EARLY AUGUST TO RESUPPLY. A KANDAHARI IDENTIFIED THE CURRENT KANDAHAR GOVERNOR AS KARIM SARAI TERABI, A PARCHAMI.

8. HERAT: A RELIABLE SOURCE REPORTS THAT MUJAHIDIN
ATTACKED HERAT AIRPORT AUGUST 22-23, CAUSING DAMAGE THAT
DISRUPTED SOME AIRPORTS OPERATIONS FOR SEVERAL DAYS. THE
MUJAHIDIN ALSO REPORTEDLY ROCKETED THE PRINCIPAL HERAT
HOTEL. AFGHAN SOURCES REPORT RECENT FIGHTING IN THE
CITY DURING AUGUST 18-23.

9. LOGAR: A RELIABLE NON-AFGHAN SOURCE REPORTS THAT SOVIET CASUALTIES FROM FIGHTING AT SEVERAL LOCATIONS IN LOGAR HAVE BEEN HEAVY IN THE SECOND HALF OF AUGUST. SEPARATELY A RELIABLE DIPLOMAT REPORTS MUJAHIDIN ATTACKED A SOVIET CONVOY IN THE ALTIMUR AREA (33°45'N 69°10'E), RESULTING IN 20 SOVIET TROOPS KILLED AND AN UNKNOWN NUMBER OF ARMORED PERSONNEL CARRIERS DESTROYED.

10. PAKIA: ACCORDING TO A RELIABLE DIPLOMAT
WITH GOOD ACCESS TO INFORMATION FROM PAKIA,
MUJAHIDIN DESTROYED THREE SOVIET ARMORED VEHICLES
IN THE KHOST AREA AUGUST 27. A FREQUENT AFGHAN
SOURCE REPORTS THAT ON AUGUST 25 MUJAHIDIN
ATTACKED A SOVIET VEHICLE CARRYING SOVIET TROOPS.
TEN SOVIETS DIED IN THE INCIDENT.

21. GHAZNI: A RELIABLE DIPLOMAT SOURCING
A RECENT TRAVELER'S REPORT STATES THAT ON AUGUST 27
THERE WAS HEAVY FIGHTING IN THE CITY OF GHAZNI.
A SEPARATE AFGHAN SOURCE CLAIMS THAT MUJAHIDIN
ON AUGUST 21 DESTROYED TWO SOVIET VEHICLES WITH
MINES IN THE QARABAGH AREA.

12. WARDAK: AN AFGHAN SOURCE CLAIMS THAT IN JULY FIGHTING IN AND NEAR MAIDAN SHAR (SEE JULY SITREPS) SOVIET FORCES LOST 40 DEAD.

13. **BALKH:** A TRAVELER FROM MAZAR-I-SHARIF REPORTS THAT AIRCRAFT TAKING OFF AND DESCENDING INTO THE CITY'S

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AIRPORT FOLLOW A "CORKSCREW" PATTERN AS IS DONE IN
KABUL BECAUSE OF A FEAR OF MUJAHIDIN ANTI-AIR CAPABILITY IN THE
AREA.

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PAGE 01

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UNITS: APT ASOTBD-CID COSCOM DRMO HCDBG HQCMOT INSCOM ISC JFK LAO REP ---

MEDCAC RG ROTC SAO SFOD SOCLANT SOCOM SSD SWS 16MP 17MI 18AVN 18CA FLE ---

18FG 18GRD 19REP 20ENG 35SIG 82ABN 513MI 525MI 902MI ---

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FM AMEMBASSY KABUL

TO RUEHIL/AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD IMMEDIATE 3930

RUEHNE/AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI IMMEDIATE 5642

RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6993

INFO RUEHUU/AFGHAN WAR COLLECTIVE

RUEHIA/USIA WASHDC 1841

RUFHCH/AMEMBASSY COLOMBO 1923

RUFHKT/AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU 1382

RUSMNOA/USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GE

RUCLAKA/FT BRAGG NC AFVS//POE//SB

RUHGHQA/CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

RUFCAAA/CINCUSAREUR HEIDELBERG GE

RHFQAAA/HQ USAFE RAMSTEIN AB GE

RHFQAAA/HQ USAFE RAMSTEIN AB GE//INCO

RUDORRA/USNMR SHAPE BE//INTAFF//

RUCJACC/USCENTCOM MACDILL AFB FL//CCJ2-ION//

RUEOLEA/DEFENSE COMMUNICATION SUPPORT GROUP

RUCLFNA/347 TFW MOODY AFB GA//IN//

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14. LAGHMAN: RELIABLE DIPLOMATS REPORT TWO DRA/SOVIET
CONVOYS WENT TO LAGHMAN AUGUST 26.

15. HUMAN RIGHTS DEVELOPMENTS:

A. SOVIET BTR CRASHES INTO SHOP: SHORTLY AFTER 2100
HOURS ON AUGUST 26, A BTR FAILED TO NEGOTIATE A CORNER
AND CRASHED INTO A SMALL TEA HOUSE AND A STATIONERY
STORE. ACCORDING TO A NEIGHBOR, ONE MAN WAS KILLED
IN THE TEA HOUSE. THE NEIGHBOR CLAIMED THAT THE
DRIVER OF THE BTR WAS DRUNK. SOVIET TROOPS IMMEDIATELY
CORDONED OFF THE AREA. DIPLOMATS OBSERVED FOUR
ARMORED VEHICLES AT THE SCENE AT APPROXIMATELY 2200.
AFTER MIDNIGHT THERE WAS SHOOTING REPORTED AT THE
SITE. SOVIET TROOPS SINCE HAVE BEEN SEEN ASSISTING
WITH REMOVAL OF THE DEBRIS.

B. NO REGIME ASSISTANCE FOR REFUGEES: REFUGEES WHO RECENTLY

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HAVE BEEN FLEEING INTO KABUL IN LARGE NUMBERS FROM THE PORTIONS OF SHOMALI AND PASHMAN DEVASTATED BY RECENT SOVIET/DRA BOMBARDMENT REPORTEDLY RECEIVE NO ASSISTANCE FROM THE REGIME. AFGHANS RELATE SEEING LARGE NUMBERS OF REFUGEES ARRIVING IN KOTE SANGI FROM THE WEST WITH VIRTUALLY NO BELONGINGS AND IN SOME CASES, NO SHOES. THE REFUGEES ARE LEFT TO FIND RELATIVES OR FRIENDS IN THE CITY. MANY OF THOSE WHO DO NOT, ATTEMPT TO REACH PAKISTAN.

C. REGIME ASSISTANCE TO WOUNDED: AMPUTEES AND OTHER WOUNDED SARANDOI, ARMY AND KHAD TROOPS AT A REGIME HOSPITAL IN KABUL, ACCORDING TO ARECENT VISITOR, COMPLAIN THAT THEY HAVE RECEIVED NO ASSISTANCE FROM THE REGIME DESPITE ASSURANCES THAT THEY WOULD BE PROVIDED FOR. ONE OBSERVED BITTERLY, "THEY EVEN PROMISED US HOUSES." A NGN-AFGHAN MEDICAL PROFESSIONAL WHO WORKS IN AN AFGHAN SURGICAL FACILITY NOTES THAT MOST WAR-INJURIES, INCLUDING AMONG CIVILIANS, ARE CAUSED BY MINES. HE NOTES FURTHER THAT AT THE 250-BED CIVILIAN LAZIR AKBAR KHAN HOSPITAL PATIENTS MUST PROVIDE THEIR OWN MEDICINES, AS WELL AS OTHER SUPPLIES ASSOCIATED WITH THEIR CARE.

16. MILITARY DEVELOPMENTS:

A. CONFUSION AND FIGHTING AT BAGRAN AIRBASE: MULTIPLE SOURCE REPORTING, INCLUDING BOTH AFGHAN AND DIPLOMATIC ACCOUNTS, ELABORATE ON REPORTS CARRIED PARA 0A REFTEL REGARDING SOVIET ATTEMPTS TO ABDUCT VILLAGE WOMEN AT A WEDDING CEREMONY IN THE BAGRAN AREA. ADDITIONAL REPORTING SINCE REFTEL CONFIRMS THE ESSENTIALS OF THE ORIGINAL REPORT BUT UNDERScores THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE FIGHTING BETWEEN PARCHAMI AND KHALGI LOYALISTS WITHIN THE DRA FORCES IN THE AREA. PARCHAMIS REPORTEDLY ATTACKED KHALGI TROOPS WHO HAD ASSISTED THE SOVIETS IN THEIR ABDUCTION ATTEMPTS. (COMMENT: IT APPEARS THAT ETHNIC AS WELL AS POLITICAL FACTORS WERE AT PLAY AS THE LARGELY PASHTUN KHALGIS WERE SEEN BY THE LARGELY TAJIK PARCHAMIS AS AIDING THE SOVIETS ATTEMPT TO VICTIMIZE TAJIK VILLAGERS.) A RELIABLE SOURCE REPORTS THAT KHALGI LEADER GULANZOI (ALSO POLITBURO MEMBER AND INTERIOR MINISTER) JOINED PROMINENT PARCHAMI MOHAMMED RAFIE (POLITBURO MEMBER AND DEFENSE MINISTER) IN A JOINT VISIT TO THE BAGRAN BASE AUGUST 16-17 TO TRY TO RESTORE ORDER. IN A SEPARATE, BUT EQUALLY WELL-SUBSTANTIATED REPORT, 25 DRA PILOTS AT BAGRAN AIRBASE REPORTEDLY REFUSED TO FLY ON AUGUST 22, PROTESTING UNSAFE FLYING CONDITIONS AS A RESULT OF IMPROVED RUSSIAN ANTI-AIRCRAFT CAPABILITY. THE STRIKE REPORTEDLY LED TO FIGHTING IN WHICH SOME AIRCRAFT ON THE GROUND WERE DAMAGED. RELIABLE DIPLOMATS REPORT THAT THE SOVIETS RETALIATED BY BOMBING HOUSING OF THE STRIKING SOLDIERS WHICH WAS LOCATED NEAR THE AIRPORT. SOME FAMILY MEMBERS, INCLUDING WOMEN AND CHILDREN, WERE CASUALTIES IN THE BOMBING. A SEPARATE BUT PROBABLY CORROBORATING REPORT NOTES THAT THE VILLAGES OF GULA-I-GOLAI AND GULA-I-TAZDASHI, LOCATED ADJACENT TO THE SOUTHERN TIP OF

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THE RUNWAY, WERE BOMBED EXTENSIVELY RECENTLY.

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18FG 18ORD 19REP 20ENG 35SIG 82ABN 513MI 525MI 902MI

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FM AMEMBASSY KABUL

TO RUEHIL/AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD IMMEDIATE 3931

RUEHNE/AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI IMMEDIATE 5643

RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6994

INFO RUEHUU/AFGHAN WAR COLLECTIVE

RUEHIA/USIA WASHDC 1842

RUFHGM/AMEMBASSY COLOMBO 1924

RUFHKT/AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU 1383

RUSNNOA/USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GE

RUCLAKA/FT BRAGG NC AFVS//POE//SB

RUMHQA/CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

RUFDAAA/CINCUSAREUR HEIDELBERG GE

RHFQAAA/HQ USAF RAMSTEIN AB GE

RHFQAAA/HQ USAF RAMSTEIN AB GE//INCO

RUDORRA/USNMR SHAPE BE//INTAFF//

RUCJACC/USCENTCOM MACDILL AFB FL//CCJ2-10M//

RUEOLEA/DEFENSE COMMUNICATION SUPPORT GROUP

RUCLFNA/347 TFW MOODY AFB GA//IN//

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RUEOAYB/FSTC INTEL OPS CHARLOTTESVILLE VA//AIAST-10/CHI//

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POSSIBLY AS A RESULT OF REPORTS OF GROWING DISSENSION WITHIN THE DRA AIR FORCE RANKS, THE REGIME HELD ITS FIRST ANNUAL AIR FORCE DAY ON AUGUST 29, WITH CEREMONIES ORGANIZED AT KABUL AIRPORT. THE REGIME'S MESSAGE CLEARLY SOUGHT TO UNDERSCORE THE DUTIES OF EACH AIRMAN AND ELABORATED BENEFITS SUPPOSEDLY MADE AVAILABLE TO THEM:

B. FUEL SHORTAGES AT KABUL AIRPORT: INABILITY OF INDIAN AIRLINES TO REFUEL AT KABUL AIRPORT, PROMPTED BY "NON-AVAILABILITY OF FUEL IN KABUL", HAS CAUSED CANCELLATION OF ITS CARGO FLIGHTS UNTIL THE END OF SEPTEMBER. INDIAN AIRLINES PASSENGER FLIGHTS ARE CONTINUING TO REFUEL ENROUTE (AT AMRITSAR).

C. SOVIET CASUALTIES: A NON-AFGHAN SOURCE, IN A REPORT SIMILAR TO AN OBSERVATION MADE RECENTLY BY AN EAST EUROPEAN DIPLOMAT, CLAIMS THAT SOVIET

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CASUALTIES IN RECENT MONTHS, IN VARIOUS PARTS OF AFGHANISTAN, HAVE BEEN VERY HIGH. (THE EAST EUROPEAN HAD NOTED HIGH SOVIET CASUALTIES IN FIGHTING IN THE KABUL AREA.)

D. INADEQUATE ANTI-TANK WEAPONS FOR THE MUJAHIDIN: A RELIABLE DIPLOMAT REPORTS THAT A MAJOR MUJAHIDIN COMMANDER RECENTLY TOLD A PROMINENT WEST EUROPEAN FIGURE THAT THE AVERAGE LIFE EXPECTANCY FOR AN RPG OPERATOR (THE PRINCIPAL MUJAHIDIN ANTI-TANK WEAPON ASIDE FROM MINES) IN THE FIELD IS THREE WEEKS.

E. DRA "CIVILIAN" FLIGHTS: DIPLOMATS AT KABUL AIRPORT ON AUGUST 25 OBSERVED PASSENGERS IN CIVILIAN CLOTHING BOARDING AN-26 AIRCRAFT THAT EARLIER HAD BEEN LOADED WITH AMMUNITION. THE AIRCRAFT WERE PAINTED IN GREEN CAMOUFLAGE AND BORE MILITARY MARKINGS.

F. SENIOR SOVIETS CAPTURED: POSSIBLY CONFIRMING EARLIER REPORTS, AN AFGHAN CLAIMS THAT IN THE SHAKADARA AREA ON AUGUST 18 MUJAHIDIN CAPTURED TWO SENIOR SOVIET OFFICERS. FOUR DRA TROOPS WERE ALSO TAKEN IN THE SAME AREA AT APPROXIMATELY THE SAME TIME.

G. ROAD SECURITY: A KANDAHARI REPORTS THAT FROM KANDAHAR ONE OR TWO BUSES RUN WEEKLY TO HERAT. SIX TO SEVEN BUSES MAKE THE RUN BETWEEN KABUL AND KANDAHAR EACH DAY.

17. POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS:

A. GULABZOI IN THE SOVIET UNION?: A RELIABLE DIPLOMAT CLAIMS THAT INTERIOR MINISTER (AND KHALQ FACTION LEADER) SAYED MOHAMMED GULABZOI HAS BEEN IN MOSCOW FOR APPROXIMATELY ONE WEEK. AFTER ARRIVAL IN MOSCOW HE REPORTEDLY SUMMONED A BODY GUARD AND A SENIOR DIRECTOR FROM THE MINISTRY. A REPORT FROM THE SAME SOURCE CLAIMS THAT MUJAHIDIN TURNCOAT (AND ARCH GULABZOI RIVAL) ISMATULLAH MUSLIM ALSO WAS TO GO TO MOSCOW.

B. KESHIMAND'S FATE: RUMORS CONTINUE OVER KESHIMAND'S REPORTED PRESENCE IN MOSCOW. HIS ABSENCE FROM THE MEDIA OVER THE LAST TWO WEEKS ALSO SUGGESTS HE IS NOT IN AFGHANISTAN. HE WAS RECENTLY ELECTED AS A DELEGATE TO THE SECOND PARTY CONFERENCE BUT WAS NOT PRESENT FOR THE ELECTION. THERE IS SPECULATION THAT HE IS BEING ENCOURAGED TO RESIGN TO MAKE WAY FOR ABDUL HAMID MONTAZI, NEWLY NAMED DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER. WHO, ACCORDING TO THIS UNCONFIRMED ACCOUNT, IS TO BECOME PRIME MINISTER. MONTAZI IS A TAJIK, THE SECOND LARGEST ETHNIC GROUP IN AFGHANISTAN, WHILE KESHIMAND IS A HAZARA, TRADITIONALLY NOT A POLITICALLY IMPORTANT ETHNIC GROUP IN AFGHANISTAN. STILL ANOTHER VERSION CLAIMS THAT KESHIMAND WAS SUMMONED TO MOSCOW AFTER IT WAS DISCOVERED THAT HE HAD ASSISTED HIS FELLOW HAZARAS IN OBTAINING WEAPONS SURREPTITIOUSLY.

18. SOVIETIZATION: ON AUGUST 25 TWO AEROFLOT FLIGHTS CARRIED AFGHAN CHILDREN TO THE SOVIET UNION. THE SAME

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DAY. TWO AEROFLOT FLIGHTS BROUGHT AFGHAN CHILDREN
BACK TO KABUL FROM THERE. KABUL MEDIA NOTED THAT
1700 CHILDREN IN ALL HAD RETURNED FROM A MONTH'S "REST"
IN SOVIET CENTRAL ASIA. A SEPARATE ARTICLE IN THE KABUL
MEDIA (KABUL NEW TIMES FOR AUGUST 25) NOTES THAT MEMBERSHIP IN
THE "SOVIET GRADUATES ASSOCIATION" (COMPOSED OF AFGHANS WHO HAVE
COMPLETED THEIR EDUCATION IN THE SOVIET UNION) NOW NUMBERS
6,000.

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UNITS: APT ASOTBD-CID COSCOM DRMO HCOBG HQCMDT INSCOM ISC JFK LAO

REP

MEDDAC RG ROTC SAO SFOD SOCLANT SOCOM SSD SMS 16MP 17MI 18AVN 18CA

FLE

18FG 18ORD 19REP 20ENG 35SIG 82ABN 513MI 525MI 902MI

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DE RUSBKB #1527/07 2431200

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O 310425Z AUG 87

FM AMEMBASSY KABUL

TO RUEHIL/AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD IMMEDIATE 3932

RUEHNE/AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI IMMEDIATE 5644

RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6995

INFO RUEHWU/AFGHAN WAR COLLECTIVE

RUEHIA/USIA WASHDC 1843

RUFHCH/AMEMBASSY COLOMBO 1925

RUFHKT/AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU 1384

RUSANOA/USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GE

RUCLAKA/FT BRAGG NC AFVS//POE//SB

RUMCHQA/CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

RUFCAAA/CINCUSAREUR HEIDELBERG GE

RHFQAAAXHQ USAFE RAMSTEIN AB GE

RHFQAAA/HQ USAFE RAMSTEIN AB GE//INCO

RUDORRA/USNMR SHAPE BE//INTAFF//

RUCJACC/USCENTCOM MACDILL AFB FL//CCJ2-ION//

RUEOLEA/DEFENSE COMMUNICATION SUPPORT GROUP

RUCLFNA/347 TFW MOODY AFB GA//IN//

RUFNSHH/USDOCOSOUTH NAPLES IT

RUEOAYB/FSTC INTEL OPS CHARLOTTESVILLE VA//AIAST-IO/CHI//

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 07 OF 07 KABUL 1527

19. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENTS:

CURRENTLY, ONE DOLLAR BUYS 174 AFGHANIS.

20. NOT TO BE BRIEFED TO PRESS:

A. GENEVA PROXIMITY TALKS: FOLLOWING CLAIMS

BY CODOVEZ ASSISTANT PICCO THAT THE DRA HAD MADE NEW

PROFOSALS, THE MFA ON AUGUST 29 TOLD A SSNIOR KABUL

DIPLOMAT THAT THE GENEVA TALKS WOULD RESUME SEPTEMBER 2

FOREIGN MINISTER WAKIL, WHO WILL VISIT VIENNA AND

BELGRADE IN EARLY SEPTEMBER, WILL LEAD

THE DRA DELEGATION. PICCO REPORTEDLY CLAIMED THAT

ALL COMMUNICATIONS ON THE GENEVA TALKS FOR THE

LAST SIX MONTHS HAD BEEN ONLY WITH MOSCOW AND THAT THERE HAD

BEEN NO CONTACT WITH THE DRA UNTIL THEIR LATEST PROPOSALS.

B. MASOOD RETURNS TO PANJSHIR; ACCORDING TO

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C. ICRC EXPANSION: THE ICRC, ACCORDING TO ONE OF THEIR SENIOR KABUL STAFFERS, HAS SIGNED AN AGREEMENT WITH THE ORA'S RED CRESCENT SOCIETY TO ASSIST IN MAINTENANCE/EXPANSION OF KABUL'S HEALTH CLINICS. THE ICRC HOPES SOON TO FINALIZE AN AGREEMENT ENCOMPASSING ESTABLISHMENT OF AN ICRC HOSPITAL FOR "WAR WOUNDED." THE 50-60 BED FACILITY WILL BE LAUNCHED AS SOON AS A SUITABLE BUILDING IS LOCATED. ICRC OFFICIALS CLAIM THAT THE ORA HAS RESUMED THE DIALOGUE ABOUT ICRC'S EFFORT TO EXTEND ITS PRISONER PROTECTION MANDATE TO AFGHANISTAN.

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EFFECTIVE ANTI-AIR DEFENSES BY THE MUJAHIDIN, SOVIET AND
DRA AIRCRAFT INCREASINGLY ARE FLYING AT NIGHT.

21. MOSCOW MINIMIZE CONSIDERED.

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